

A DECLARATION

Of the
Parliament of Scotland,

To all his Majesties good Subjects
of this KINGDOM;

Concerning their Resolutions for
RELIGION, KING and KINGDOMS,
In pursuance of the Ends of the

COVENANT.



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in *Pauls Church-yard*. 1648.



A Declaration of the Parliament of Scotland, to all his Majesties good Subjects, &c.

WH E the Estates of Parliament now convened, in the first Session of this second Triennial Parliament, finding the strong endeavours and attempts of disaffected persons and enemies of Truth, to blast and obstruct our Labours in the performance of our duties, in order to all our Relations, by traducing and calumniating our proceedings; Are therefore obliged to undeceive the abused People, to vindicate our selves from all unjust Aspersions, and to clear and evidence to this Kingdom our constancy and firmness to the Cause of God, which we finde now in as great (if not greater) Danger then it ever was in since the beginning of all their late Troubles.

Upon the growing divisions and debates betwixt his Majesty and his Two Houses of the Parliament of *England*, This Kingdom did for the space of neer two years, by reiterated Petitions and Messages, offer their services and endeavours, for composing and removing these Dissentions and Differences. But their desires therein, through the Counsels and Practices of their common Enemies, were still made ineffectual, and disappointed, until at length many thousands of either side were fallen by the fury and rage of a cruel and unnatural Sword, and the Flourishing Kingdom of *England* turned into a field of blood. And while they were thus with their own hands tearing out their own Bowels, and massacring themselves, The Houses of Parliament then in a very lowe condition, invited this Kingdom to their Assistance; who finding their Petitions and Addresses to his Majesty, for a more natural and amicable decison of differences then by the Sword, rejected; and justly apprehending to have the dregs of that bitter Cup which overflowed in *England*, pour out upon their own heads, if those counsels and advices which gave first life and motion to these Dissentions, should still be prevalent; Did engage in a Solemn League & Covenant for Reformation and defence of Religion, the Honour and Happiness of the King, and Peace and Safety of the three Kingdoms; In pursuance thereof, this Kingdom joyned in Arms with their Brethren in *England*, and for divers yeers, through many hazards and wants, did prosecute these ends, until by the Blessing of God upon their joynt endeavours, their common enemies were subdued, and most

most of them brought to such condigne punishment as the respective Parliaments thought fit. Thereafter, our Army returned home upon assurance from the two Houses, that the Treaties and Covenant should be inviolably kept. But by the contrary, We finde that there is not any Article of the Solemn League and Covenant, which has not been Sinfully and Dangerously violated before God, Angels and Men, by the prevalent party of Sectaries, and their adherents; Nay, the Covenant it self like to be destroyed, or at least, forgot or laid aside. For where we expected that according to the first Article of the Treaty betwixt the Kingdoms, in *Anno* 1643, it should have been tane by both Kingdoms, and that the Not takers thereof are by the joynt Declaration of both declared publike enemies to Religion and Country, and are to be punished as professed Adversaries and Malignants. We now finde by the prevalent Party of Sectaries and their adherents, it is not onely laid aside in the new Propositions lately sent to his Majesty to the *Ile of Wight*, and no execution of publike Orders for taking it thorow the Country, but also many persons of eminent and publike Trusts in the army and elsewhere, have never taken it, neither are urged thereunto. In stead of Reformation and defence of Religion, That Reformation which by the Covenant ought to be endeavoured, is resisted and hindered, Heresie and Schism tolerated, under which most horrid Blasphemies are sheltered and protected, if not openly professed and allowed. In stead of maintaining the Rights and Priviledges of Parliament, the Houses have been highly disordered, and threatned; Those who by the Covenant ought to be brought to condigne trial and punishment for hindring the Reformation of Religion, dividing the King from his People, or any of the Kingdoms from another, or making any Faction or Party amongst the people, contrary to the League and Covenant, have been protected and assisted, and those persecuted who by the Covenant ought to be defended. In stead of a firm Union and Peace betwixt the Kingdoms, a breach hath been endeavoured. And whereas both Kingdoms by the Solemn League & Covenant are obliged to preserve his Majesties Person and Authority, in the preservation and defence of the true Religion and Liberties of the Kingdoms, that the world may bear witness with our consciences of our Loyalty, and that we have no thoughts nor intentions to diminish his Majesty's power & greatness. And the Kingdom of *Scotland* having also upon his Majesties going from *Newcastle*, declared against all injury, harm, prejudice, or violence to be done to his Royal Person; yet by a sudden surprisal his Majestie was violently seized on, and carried from his house at *Holmby* against his own wil, and the declared resolution of both Kingdoms, by a party of the Army under the Command of *Sir Tho. Fairfax*, and by that Army thereafter carried about from place to place at their pleasure, kept and

invironed with strong Guards within their Quarters, until he was forced for safety of his life to flee from *Hampton-Court*, as he himself declared in his Message from thence: And by the power and prevalency of that Army and their adherents, he is kept a close Prisoner in the *Isle of Wight*, and Votes past, declaring it High-treason to make any further applications to him, or to receive any Messages or Letters from him: yea, even to that extremity are they already gone against him, that it is declared they will repose no further trust in him. Like as not onely such as had Warrants for access to him, from the Parliament of this Kingdom, are debarred thereof, notwithstanding of engagement of the Houses, 27 *January*, 1647, to the contrary; but the Earl of *Landerdale*, a publike minister of this Kingdom, contrary to the Law of Nations, was violently removed from *Woburn*, where his Majesty then was, and not suffered to have access to him: and though reparation therein was desired by the Committee of Estates, yet none was given. And when the said Commissioners desired to know whether the Votes against all applications to the King, did extend to his Majesties Subjects of *Scotland*, to debar such as are warranted by the Parliament of this Kingdom, or their Committees, from free access to, or intercourse with his Majesty; or that he should be hindered from, and so made incapable of any act of Government in relation to the affairs of *Scotland*; no Answer at all was returned thereto, until the Commissioners from both Houses now residing here, did in *March* last give to us a large Declaration from them, acclaiming the sole power of the disposing of the person of the King in *England*. We do not conceive it fit at this time to insist upon any violation made of the large Treaty concerning the remainder of the money due upon the brotherly assistance, nor of the Treaty for the Army in *Ireland*, for whose service there was due in *Anno* 1643, by a subscribed Accompt, 312000 l. *sterl.* (though we can never part from the interest of that Army, till they be justly satisfied for their long and faithful service): For as money neither was the cause nor motive to any of our undertakings nor resolutions, whatever hath been falsely suggested by our enemies: so we shall not value it so much, as now to mention it amongst the causes and grounds of our proceedings at this time.

By the large Treaty betwixt the Kingdoms of *Scotland* and *England*, it is provided, That if any Armies be levied in any of the Kingdoms, and the neighbour-Kingdom thereby harmed or wronged, that then the Estates of the Country by which it is done, shall be obliged to pursue, take, and punish the offenders with all rigour. The Kingdom of *Scotland* hath divers times desired the performance of this Article, and in particular the Parliament of *Scotland*, upon the 16 of *January*, 1647. To which the Houses in their Letter of the 27 of *January*, engaged themselves to the Parliament

ment of *Scotland*, That the English Garisons being delivered up, and the Scottish Army marched out of *England*, they should take that desire into speedy consideration. Upon the 16 of *July*, 1647, the Scots Commissioners desired performance hereof. But through the prevalency and power of the *Sectaries*, no reparation, satisfaction nor answer was given.

And although by the eighth Article of the Treaty, 1643, it is agreed that no Cessations, Pacifications, nor Agreements for Peace whatsoever, shall be made by either Kingdome, or the Armies of either Kingdom without mutuall advice and consent of both Kingdoms, which engagement the Houses of Parliament also repeating in their Letter of the 17. of *January* 1648. to observe that Article after the removall of our Army out of *England*; yet contrary thereunto the Army of *Sectaries* and their adherents framed Proposals destructive to the Ends of the Covenant, which were presented to his Majesty without the advice or consent of the Kingdom of *Scotland*: And thereafter, by their power and prevalency, the Houses of Parliament have laid aside the Propositions agreed on by both Kingdoms, and have contrary to the Treaty, presented Propositions and bills to his Majesty; against which the Commissioners of this Kingdome by order, and according to their instructions, did protest, as being destructive to Religion, the Crown and union of the Kingdomes.

These dangers so eminently threatening Religion and Government, call upon us, as Christians, as Subjects, as Scotchmen, to a duty to God, our King and Countrey, and to our oppressed and heavily afflicted Brethren in *England*, who are faithfull and constant to the cause of God. We have therefore resolved in the first place to endeavour and assay all brotherly and amiable means of repairing and making up such differences or breaches, as may otherwise necessitate this Kingdom to ingage in a War: And therefore, we doe intend to send to the Honorable Houses of the Parliament of *England*, These following necessary, and just desires for Religion, His Majestie, and good and peace of these Kingdoms.

I That an effectuall course be taken by the Houses for enjoying the Covenant to be taken by all the subjects of the Crown of *England*, conforme to the first Article of the Treaty, and conform to the Declaration of both Kingdomes in *Anno* 1643. By which all who would not take the Covenant were declared to be publick enemies to Religion and the country, and that they are to be censured and punished as professed adversaries and inalignants: And that Reformation of, and Uniformity in Religion be settled according to the Covenant. That as the Houses of Parliament have agreed to the Directory of Worship, so they would take a reall course for the practising thereof by all the subject in *England* and *Ireland*; that the confession

of Faith transmitted from the Assembly of Divines at *Westminster* to the Houses be approved ; and that Presbyteriall government with the subordination of the lower Assembly to the higher be settled and fully established in *England* and *Ireland*, and that an effectuall course be taken for suppressing and extirpating all Heresies and Schismes, particularly Socinianism, Arminianism, Arrianism, Anabaptism, Antinomianism, Erastianism, Familism, Brownism & Independency ; and for perfecting what is yet further to be done, for extirpating Popery and Prelacy, and suppressing the practise of the Service Book, commonly called the *Book of English common Prayer*.

2 That conform to the former desires of this Kingdom, the Kings Majesty may come with honour, freedom, and safety to some of His houses in or near *London*, that the Parliaments of both Kingdoms may make their applications to Him for obtaining His Royall assent to such desires as shall be by them presented to Him, for establishing Religion, as is above expressed, and settling a well grounded peace.

3 And to the end, that all Members of both Houses who have been faithful to this Cause, may freely and safely return and attend their charges, the City of *London* may enjoy its liberty and privileges which it had before the late encroachment of the Armie, the Parliament may sit and voice with freedom and safety, both Kingdoms without interruption or disturbance may make their applications to his Majesty, and the settling of Religion and Peace may be no longer hindered & obstructed, that the present army of Sectaries under the Command of *Tho. L. Fairfax* of *Cameron*, be disbanded, & none employed, but such as have or shall take the Covenant, & are well affected to Religion & Government, excepting from the said disbanding the Garrisons necessary to be kept up by the Parliament of *England*, for the safety of that Kingd. which are desired to be commanded by such as have or shall take the Covenant, & are well affected to Religion and Government as aforesaid.

We will not doubt but the Honourable Houses will seriously weigh and consider how necessary and just these our demands are, to which we will expect a satisfactory answer; But if through the influence and power of the Army of Sectaries that own invirons them, these our desires be slighted and rejected ; Yet we resolve by Gods assistance in all our proceedings never to break on our part the union betwixt the Kingdoms, nor to encroach upon the Nationall rights of the Subjects of *England*, or entrench upon their just liberties ; much lesse is it our intention at all to make any National engagement against the Parliament and Kingdom of *England*. But for them whose freedom, privileges and happiness shall be ever as dear to us as our own. And if we shall be necessitated to any undertakings in War, we do resolve, that as the engagements of this Kingd. have been constantly hitherto for settling Truth and Peace under his Majesties Government, so they shall

still be for the obtaining the same ends: And wee will be carefull that in the managing and carrying on of so pious and dutifull a work, That we shall not enter into Association and Conjunction of Force with those who shall refuse to swear & subscribe the Solemn League and Covenant, nor use such means or instruments as may discourage or disoblige the Presbyterians in England, who continue firm to the Solemn League and Covenant: and that we will be so far from joyning or associating our selves with the Popish, Prelaticall or Malignant party, if they shall again rise in Arms, either to oppose or obstruct all or any of the ends of the Covenant; That on the contrary, we will oppose, and endeavour to suppress them, as enemies to the Cause and Covenant on the one hand, as well as Secretaries on the other. And we further declare, That we will give trust in our Armies and Committees to none but such as are of known integrity, abilities, and faithfulness to this Cause and Covenant, and against whom there is no just cause of exception. And as we shall endeavour the rescuing of his Majesty from those who violently carried him away from *Holdenby*, and by whose power he is still detained close prisoner, that he may come with Honour, Freedom and Safety to some of his Houses, in or neer to *London*, where both Kingdoms may make their applications to him, for settling Religion, and a well grounded Peace: So we resolve not to put in his Majesties hands, or any others whatsoever, any such power whereby the foresaid ends of the Covenant, or any one of them may be obstructed or opposed, Religion or Presbyterian Government endangered. But on the contrary, before any agreement or condition to be made with his Majesty, having found his late Concessions and Offers concerning Religion not satisfactory, That he give assurance by his solemn Oath under his Hand and Seal, that he shall for himself and his Successors give his Royall assent, and agree to such Act or Acts of Parliament, and Bills as shall be presented to him by his Parliaments of both or either Kingdoms *respectively*, for enjoining the League and Covenant, and fully establishing Presbyteriall Government, Directory of Worship, and Confession of Faith in all his Majesties Dominions: and that his Majesty shall never make any opposition to any of those, nor endeavour any change thereof. And further, to shew and evidence the candor and reality of our intentions, we are willing to subjoyn to the grounds of our undertakings an Oath, whereof both, in the framing thereof, and other wayes, we are willing the Church shall have their due interest, as formerly in the like cases.

And albeit we are resolved not to ingage in any War before the necessity and lawfulness thereof be cleared: so as all who are well affected may be satisfied therewith: And that reparation to such breaches and injuries as are or shall be condescended to shall be demanded in such a just and fit

way as shall be found most lawfull and expedient. Yet we cannot be answerable to the great trust laid upon us, if seeing so imminent and great dangers to all that is dearest to us, we did not make use of our Authority and Power for the common safety of this Kingdom; and therefore we have resolved to put this Kingdom presently into a posture of Defence, as it was
Anno 1643.

And now, as many of the dangers, with the grounds and resolutions in pursuance of our duties, are hereby made known to this Kingdom; so we are assured that all & every one who have any zeal to Religion, love to Monarchicall Government, sense of the sufferings and imprisonment of their King, affection to their oppressed Brethren in *England*, or desire to preserve the Priviledges of Parliament, and liberty of the Subject, will cheerfully in such an exigent (while the eyes of all Christendom are upon us) rouse up themselves, and contribute their best endeavours, as they shal be required by us, in pursuance of all the ends of the Covenant, atwel for Religion, as for his Majesties Person & Government, and Priviledges of Parliament; in doing whereof wee shall witness to the world, that wee have not swerved from these our first principles contained in our National Covenant, & in our Solemn League & Covenant, whereby we did solemnly swear and promise before God and his Angels, To endeavour in our severall places and callings, the Reformation of, and Uniformity in Religion and Church-government in all his Majesties Dominions, according to the Word of God, and example of the best Reformed Churches; and not only to the utmost of our power, with our means and lives to stand to the defence of our dread Sovereign, his Person and Authority, in the preservation of the true Religion, and liberties of the Kingdoms: But also in every cause which may concern his Majesties honor to concur, according to the Laws of this Kingdom, and duty of good Subjects: And also hereby give a singular proof of the good intentions of all that maintain Presbyteriall Government, that they are not enemies to Monarchie, as they are falsely by their enemies branded. And in particular this Kingdom of *Scotland* will now make it evident, as they often declared, that their quietness, stability, and happiness doth depend upon the safety of the Kings Majesties person, and maintenance of his greatness and Royal Authority, who is Gods Vice-gerent set over us for maintenance of Religion, and ministration of Justice: Having so many bands and ties of duty and subjection to his Majestie, and his Government, who is our Native King from a longer Series and descent of his Royall Progenitors, then can be paralleld in *Europe*. That we resolve closely and constantly to adhere thereunto, as also to all the ends of the Covenant.

ALEX. GIBSON *Cler. Registr.*

FINIS.